

{01} Genesis

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 37

(1) And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

(2) These *are* the generations of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

(3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours.

(4) And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

(5) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

(6) And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

(7) For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

(8) And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Chapter 37

(1) And Jacob lived in the land in which his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

(2) These *are* the generations {records} of Jacob.^a Joseph, *being* seventeen years old {2276 A.H./C-1766 B.C.},* was feeding the flock with his brothers; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought to his father an evil report about them.

(3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colors.

(4) And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

(5) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* to his brothers: and they hated him all the more.

(6) And he said to them, I urge {ask} you to listen to this dream which I have dreamed:

(7) Because, look, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, indeed, your sheaves stood around it, and bowed down before my sheaf.

(8) And his brothers said to him, Shall you indeed reign over us? or shall you indeed rule over us? And they hated him all the more because of his dreams, and because of his words.

37:2a - end of Jacob's section 11 beginning of Joseph's section 12 [final section]

17th year of Joseph's life – Joseph sold into slavery
[*2276 A.H./C-1766 B.C.]

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(9) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

(10) And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

(11) And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

(12) And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

(13) And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed *the flock* in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here *am I*.

(14) And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

(15) And a certain man found him, and, behold, *he was* wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

(16) And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed *their flocks*.

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(9) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brothers, and said, indeed, I have dreamed another dream; and, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down before me.

(10) And he told *it* to his father, and to his brothers: and his father rebuked him, and said to him, What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow down ourselves to you to the earth?

(11) And his brothers envied him; but his father observed the saying.

(12) And his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

(13) And Israel said to Joseph, Do not your brothers feed *the flock* in Shechem? come, and I will send you to them. And he said to him, Here I *am*.

(14) And he said to him, Go, I urge {ask} you, see whether it is well with your brothers, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

(15) And a certain man found him, and, indeed, *he was* wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What are you looking for?

(16) And he said, I am looking for my brothers: tell me, I urge {ask} you, where they feed *their flocks*.

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(17) And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

(18) And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

(19) And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

(20) Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

(21) And Reuben heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

(22) And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

(23) And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, *his* coat of *many* colours that *was* on him;

(24) And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it.

(25) And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry *it* down to Egypt.

(17) And the man said, They have departed from here; because I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brothers, and found them in Dothan.

(18) And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near to them, they conspired against him to kill him.

(19) And they said one to another, Look, this dreamer is coming.

(20) Therefore come now, and let us kill him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast has devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

(21) And Reuben^b heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

(22) And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand upon him; that he might deliver him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

(23) And it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, *his* coat of *many* colors that *was* on him;

(24) And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it.

(25) And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, there came a company of Ishmaelites^c from Gilead with their camels carrying spices and balm and myrrh, going down to Egypt.

37:21b – Rueben – Jacob's oldest son – Gen. 29:32

37:25c - Ishmaelites - descendants of Abraham's son Ishmael born to his wife's hand maid

Hagar - Gen. 16:1-12

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(26) And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

(27) Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content.

(28) Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

(29) And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

(30) And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child *is* not; and I, whither shall I go?

(31) And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

(32) And they sent the coat of *many* colours, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it *be* thy son's coat or no.

(33) And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

(34) And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

(26) And Judah^d said to his brothers, What does it profit us if we kill our brother, and conceal his blood?

(27) Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be upon him; because he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brothers were content.

(28) Then there passed by Midianites^e merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty *pieces* of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

(29) And Reuben returned to the pit; and, indeed, Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

(30) And he returned to his brothers, and said, The child *is* no more; and I, where shall I go?

(31) And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

(32) And they sent the coat of *many* colors, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, We have found this: do you know now whether it *is* your son's coat or not.

(33) And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; an evil beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn into pieces.

(34) And Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

37:26d – Judah was Jacob's fourth son – see Gen. 29:35

37:28e - Midianites - descendants of Abraham's son Midian who was born to his wife Keturah whom he married after Sarah's death. Gen. 25:1-2

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(35) And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.
(36) And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, *and* captain of the guard.

Chapter 38

(1) And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name *was* Hirah.
(2) And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name *was* Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.
(3) And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.
(4) And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.
(5) And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.
(6) And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name *was* Tamar.
(7) And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.
(8) And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

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(35) And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, I will go down into the grave to my son mourning. So his father wept for him.
(36) And the Midianites sold him into Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, *and* captain of the guard.

Chapter 38

(1) And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brothers, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name *was* Hirah.
(2) And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name *was* Shuah; and he took her, and went in to her.
(3) And she conceived, and bore a son; and he called his name Er {watchful}.^a
(4) And she conceived again, and bore a son; and she called his name Onan {strong}.^b
(5) And she yet again conceived, and bore a son; and called his name Shelah {request}:^c and he was at Chezib, when she bore him.
(6) And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name *was* Tamar.
(7) And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD {Jehovah}; and the LORD {Jehovah} killed him.
(8) And Judah said to Onan, Go in to your brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up descendants for your brother.

38:3a - Er {עֵר} - Watchful - Gen. 46:12

38:4b - Onan {אֹנָן} - Strong - Gen. 46:12

38:5c - Shelah {שֵׁלָה} - Request

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(9) And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled *it* on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

(10) And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.

(11) Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren *did*. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

(12) And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

(13) And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.

(14) And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which *is* by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.

(15) When Judah saw her, he thought her *to be* an harlot; because she had covered her face.

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(9) And Onan knew that the descendants would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he spilled *it* {the semen} on the ground, so that he should not give descendants to his brother.

(10) And the thing which he did displeased the LORD {Jehovah}: therefore He killed him also.

(11) Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, Remain a widow at your father's house, until Shelah my son is grown: because he said, Lest perhaps he die also, as his brothers *did*. And Tamar went and lived in her father's house.

(12) And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

(13) And it was told Tamar, saying, Look your father-in-law goes up to Timnath to shear his sheep.

(14) And she took off her widow's clothes, and covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which *is* by the road to Timnath; because she saw that Shelah was grown, and she had not been given to him for a wife.

(15) When Judah saw her, he thought her *to be* a prostitute; because she had covered her face.

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(16) And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she *was* his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?

(17) And he said, I will send *thee* a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give *me* a pledge, till thou send *it*?

(18) And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that *is* in thine hand. And he gave *it* her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him.

(19) And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

(20) And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive *his* pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.

(21) Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where *is* the harlot, that *was* openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this *place*.

(22) And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, *that* there was no harlot in this *place*.

(23) And Judah said, Let her take *it* to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.

(16) And he turned to her by the way, and said, I urge {ask} you, come now, let me come in to you; (because he did not know that she *was* his daughter-in-law.) And she said, What will you give me, that you may come in to me?

(17) And he said, I will send *you* a kid from the flock. And she said, Will you give *me* a pledge, until you send *it*?

(18) And he said, What pledge shall I give you? And she said, Your signet ring, and your bracelets, and your staff that *is* in your hand. And he gave *it to* her, and came in to her, and she conceived by him.

(19) And she arose, and went away, and laid her veil away from her, and put on the clothes of her widowhood.

(20) And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive *his* pledge from the woman's hand: but he could not find her.

(21) Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where *is* the prostitute, who *was* openly by the road side? And they said, There was no prostitute in this *place*.

(22) And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, *that* there was no prostitute in this *place*.

(23) And Judah said, Let her keep *it* to herself, that we may not be shamed: indeed, I sent this kid, and you have not found her.

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(24) And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she *is* with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

(25) When she *was* brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these *are*, *am* I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose *are* these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.

(26) And Judah acknowledged *them*, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

(27) And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins *were* in her womb.

(28) And it came to pass, when she travailed, that *the one* put out *his* hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.

(29) And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? *this* breach *be* upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.

(30) And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.

(24) And it came to pass about three months afterward, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the prostitute; and also, indeed, she *is* with child by prostitution. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

(25) When she *was* brought forth, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, I *am* with child by the man, to whom these belong: and she said, Discern, I urge you, whose *are* these, the signet ring, and bracelets, and staff.

(26) And Judah acknowledged *them*, and said, She has been more righteous than I; because I did not give her to Shelah my son. And he did not know her again {sexually}.

(27) And it came to pass in the time of her labor, that, indeed, twins *were* in her womb.

(28) And it came to pass, when she was in labor, that *the one* put out *his* hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.

(29) And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, indeed, his brother came out: and she said, How have you broken forth? *this* breach *is* upon you: therefore his name was called Pharez {breach}.^d

(30) And afterward his brother came out, who had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah {risen}.^e

38:29d - Pharez {פָּרֵז} - breach

38:30e - Zarah {זָרַח} - risen or sprung up